

B. Objection to the Drawings has been Remedied

The Examiner objected to the drawings on grounds that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants herewith submit revised substitute drawings for entry in this application. These drawings contain descriptive text corresponding to the claimed aspects of the present invention golf balls as requested by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

C. Objection to Description of Related Applications has been Remedied

The Examiner requested that Applicants rewrite the first paragraph on page 1 of the application pertaining to related applications. Applicants have done so and updated the status of each of the cited applications. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is believed to be to have been remedied.

The Examiner also referred to an erroneous statement in a previous response concerning one of the parent applications, 08/542,793. On March 22, 1999 Applicants filed a written "Communication to Examiner" identifying that previous erroneous statement and correctly noting, that application Serial No. 08/542,793 filed on October 13, 1995, is in fact, abandoned.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-8 Under Section 112 has been Remedied

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for purportedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contended that both metric and corresponding U.S. units of measure must be used in the claims. Applicants have amended the claims in this regard. Additionally, the Examiner contended that the term "high repulsion" in claim 2 is indefinite. As explained in greater detail below, Applicants have cancelled claim 2, thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot.

E. Rejection of Claims 1-8 Under Sections 102/103 Has Been Overcome

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 4,848,770 to Shama. Applicants respectfully disagree with this ground of rejection.

Claim 1, the only independent claim, recites (as amended herein):

1. A three piece solid golf ball comprising:
a center core, an intermediate layer, and a cover
enclosing the core through the intermediate layer;
said center core having a diameter of at least 29 mm
(1.1417 inches) and a specific gravity of less than 1.4;
said intermediate layer formed of an ionomer resin base
composition and having a thickness of at least 1 mm (0.03937 inches),
a specific gravity of less than 1.2, and a hardness of at least 85 on JIS
C (Shore C) scale, the specific gravity of said intermediate layer being
lower than the specific gravity of said center core; and said cover
having a thickness of 1 to 3 mm (0.03937 to 0.1182 inches) and being
softer than said intermediate layer.

The present invention, as claimed, relates to a golf ball utilizing a **single core** and a **dual cover** assembly. The cover consists of an inner cover layer or mantle and an outer cover. See Figs. 1 and 2 of the application as originally filed, and page 6, the last paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7, for example. See also the first two paragraphs under the "Detailed Description of the Invention" on page 9 of the application.

In contrast, the '770 patent to Shama is directed to an entirely different golf ball construction. Shama describes a **dual core and single cover assembly**. The dual core consists of an inner polybutadiene core and an outer polybutadiene core. The core is then encompassed by a single layer cover. This is clearly evident by Shama's description of forming his single cover layer in col. 5, lines 5-7.

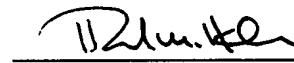
Notwithstanding the foregoing significant difference between the pending claims and the limited disclosure of the '770 patent to Shama, claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish the claimed subject matter from the Shama patent. Claim 1, as now amended, recites that the intermediate layer is formed of an ionomer resin composition. Shama entirely fails to disclose, teach, or even suggest the use of such a material in that outer core or mantle layer. Shama teaches away from this feature, now expressly called out in claim 1, by describing that layer as formed from polybutadiene, see Table 1, col. 3.

No new matter is added by this amendment to claim 1 since that recitation was previously in dependent claim 2. Upon incorporation of that language in claim 1, claim 2 has been cancelled.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present rejection has been overcome and request that all claims 1 and 3-8 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, BEALL, FAGAN,
MINNICH & MCKEE, L.L.P.


Richard M. Klein

Registration No. 33,000

Mark E. Bandy

Registration No. 35,788

1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor

Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2518

(216) 861-5582

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